

I'm writing to strongly object to Broadband Internet over Powerline (A.K.A.: BPL) implementation in any format. There are already adequate broadband internet distribution systems available for the greatest proportion of the US population.

The public would be better served if the FCC would reject the request of all electric utilities for distributing internet service in this format. They are electric utilities and not telecommunications utilities.

The major power outage that occurred in the Northeast US and Canada on August 14, 2003 shows that electric utility companies have enough problems maintaining transmission facilities. One of the early criticisms made toward one of the Ohio utilities involved was that they were too diversified.

News reports state that it is estimated that 50 billion US dollars is needed to upgrade the power transmission system in the United States. No doubt the power industry will soon be seeking public funding or bailout money to improve their systems. They do not need the additional expense of implementing BPL nor should the public pay for services that are not needed.

Allowing electric utilities to implement BPL will only divert financial resources and delay resolving this critical issue. BPL is one of the most costly ways to distribute broadband internet. I do not want the FCC to allow my electric utility to implement BPL when they are already having a difficult time maintaining this critical portion of our national infrastructure. Electric utilities need to focus on the serious problem at hand.

Power companies nationwide have been notoriously nonresponsive to complaints of noise created by powerlines. These companies do not have the expertise necessary to resolve radio interference problems. As a whole, their track record shows that most RFI problems will go unresolved. Adding the highly skilled persons necessary to provide effective problem solving skills in this area would be highly expensive. Again, those costs would be passed on to the public.